

MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

HELD ON: August 3, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: BAIER, HOFFMAN, SHARON, WOLK, HOLEWINSKI

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: MAASS/COMMISSIONER, STERN/HWY SUPT, COOPER/SECRETARY,
JOHN/HWY UNION PRESIDENT, DESMOND/ASST CORPORATION
COUNSEL, CHARBARNEAU/EMPLOYEE SERVICES MGR**

The following matters were taken up to wit:

1. Baier called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. It was noted the meeting was properly posted and the media notified.
2. **Motion:** Wolk/Sharon to approve the agenda. All ayes.
3. Committee discussed the CTH "K" construction project and complaints received by Baier about the employee's paving on Monday. He received an email from a Highway employee's wife concerned for the health and safety of her husband, and other Highway employees, because the employees were paving for 13 straight hours on a day where the heat index was quite high. The employee's wife stated that, if anything had happened to her husband, there would have been a huge lawsuit. County Board member Vandervest also received an email from the same person regarding the issue. Baier then spoke with Stern, Highway Supt, Paving Foreman Black, and a few other employees. Black, the Paving Foreman, told Baier that he was pretty much the oldest man on the crew, and he felt that if he could handle it, the younger guys should be able to handle it. Stern had asked Maass earlier in the day if the crew should stop at 3:00 p.m. and finish the next day. Maass said, 'we will see how it goes'. Black was told that if he felt the crew could not handle it, or if anyone was getting sick, to shut the project down. In the early afternoon, Maass and Stern both spoke with Black. Black told them that they were doing fine and they would be able to finish the black topping that day. Maass and Stern were on the project frequently making certain that the crews were o.k, and that they had lots of water. Sharon asked Baier if he had received any complaints from any employees on the project. Baier said no. Johns, Union President, told the committee that the union did not lodge any complaints. Johns said there were comments about how hot it was, but there were more comments about the guys being happy for the overtime. Maass was glad they were able to get the black top done on Monday, because the next two days it rained, and today they didn't have enough employees to make a crew. Maass explained that the project required very little handwork; the equipment did most of the work. Desmond told the committee that the employee job descriptions state that they must have the ability to work in extreme weather and in unpleasant conditions. The committee agreed that this was not a safety or health issue.
Motion: Wolk/Sharon to have Baier respond to the emails, telling the author that the committee felt that precautions were taken, the crew was given adequate water, and they did not feel this situation was a safety or health issue. A job description will accompany the response. All ayes.
4. Committee did not go into closed session.
5. No Public Comments
6. **Motion:** Holewinski/Sharon to adjourn at 8:45 a.m. All ayes.

Committee Chairperson

Committee Secretary